

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

S-6J

Re: Wolverine World Wide Tannery Site, Rockton, MI

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This letter is in response to your petition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, dated June 21, 2011, in which you request an investigation at the Wolverine World Wide, Inc. Tannery Site, located at 123 North Main St. in Rockford, Michigan under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). EPA has conducted a Preliminary Assessment, as described in 40 C.F.R §§ 300.419(c) and 300.420, to determine whether a CERCLA action is warranted at the Site. A copy of the Preliminary Assessment Report is enclosed.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and EPA's Superfund Removal Program participated in the Preliminary Assessment. It is likely that contaminated groundwater discharges to the Rouge River. Elevated levels of several inorganic contaminants have been detected in the surface and subsurface soils in portions of the Site. Total chromium, hexavalent chromium, arsenic, and mercury have been detected in sediment samples. Arsenic, total chromium and hexavalent chromium have also been detected in groundwater.

The Preliminary Assessment determined that the Site scores above 28.5 in EPA's Hazardous Ranking System and merits further investigation. MDEQ has recommended that the Site be referred to it for such action, and we have concluded that such a referral is appropriate here. MDEQ has based its request for referral upon receiving a letter from Wolverine World Wide in which they commit to working with the MDEQ under Section 14b of Part 201. Section 14b requires MDEQ approval of the work being conducted. Under this "Other Cleanup Authority" arrangement MDEQ will further investigate the Site under Part 201 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and other statutes and are required to report to us annually on investigative and cleanup activities. However, for this site MDEQ has agreed to report to EPA at least twice a year. Under the Other Cleanup Authority designation, EPA retains the ability to resume as the lead agency if necessary.

Additionally, EPA has concluded that a CERCLA removal response action is not warranted at this time, since the concentration and quantity of known contaminants do not present an immediate and substantial threat of release

If you have any questions, please contact me at (312) 353-9773; or Tom Williams, Associate Regional Counsel, at (312) 886-5932 or [tom.williams@epa.gov](mailto:tom.williams@epa.gov), or Nuria Muñiz, NPL Coordinator, at (312) 886-6312 or [nuria.muniz@epa.gov](mailto:nuria.muniz@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

Enclosure  
cc: David Kline, MDEQ

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